

For Immediate Release: Monday June 8, 2009

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Wednesday, June 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in room 2247 of the Rayburn House Office Building, the Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia will hold an oversight hearing on the Environmental Restoration Program at Spring Valley.

The Subcommittee will examine the recent progress of the Restoration Program, discuss the criteria that will be used in declaring the site clean of environmental/health contamination and assess the level of transparency and/or community engagement associated with the Spring Valley cleanup.

“While we rely on the Spring Valley Restoration Advisory Board to keep everyone informed of the site’s developments, it is this Subcommittee’s responsibility to monitor the Project’s effectiveness in removing the various environmental hazards left behind by the Defense Department and to ensure the health and well being of residents of this community,” said Chairman Stephen F. Lynch. “Ideally, we would like the Corps and other entities involved, to remain on the Spring Valley site until they can assure Congress and the residents of the District of Columbia with some level of certainty that the 661 acre section of our nation’s capital is completely clean of any other ordnance or munitions.”

During World War I a 661 acre site on the campus American University Experiment Station in the northwest section of Washington, D.C., now known as Spring Valley, was used by the U.S. Army for the development and testing of chemical agents, equipment and munitions.

After the discovery of buried military ordnance in 1993, the subsequent site remediation and the declaration of no further action needed by the U.S. Army in June of 1995, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has since returned to Spring Valley to continue identifying and removing

environmental contaminates and has been since.

The Delegate from the District of Columbia, Eleanor Holmes-Norton, said in a recent press release that, “because Spring Valley is the only FUDS in a U.S. residential community, the Corps should not cease its activities without congressional oversight and the appropriate assurance that this area is free of contamination.”

“No information has been submitted to the public or Congress concerning how the Corps has ascertained that the entire site is clear, safe, and without residual health effects.” Norton said, “The Army Corps left this site before, only to return when more munitions were discovered by accident.”

Witnesses’ testimonies, the Chairman’s opening statement and other supporting documents can be found on the Subcommittee’s website, federalworkforce.oversight.house.gov

To view a webcast of the hearing, please click on the link below:

[Click Here](#)

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The Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service, and the District of Columbia’s jurisdiction includes federal employee issues, non-appropriation municipal affairs of the District of Columbia, and the Postal Service, including post office namings, holidays, and commemoratives.

Documents and Links

- [Testimony for the Record from Congressman Earl Blumenauer](#)
- [Testimony of Addison Davis](#)
- [Testimony of Anu Mittal](#)
- [Testimony of Cornelius M. Kerwin](#)

- [Testimony of George Hawkins](#)
- [Testimony of Gregory Beumel](#)
- [Testimony of Harold G. Bailey](#)
- [Testimony of James Barton](#)
- [Testimony of Kent Slowinski](#)
- [Testimony of Nan Wells](#)
- [Testimony of Peter Mueller](#)
- [Testimony of Thomas M. Smith](#)
- [Testimony of William Early](#)
- [STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN LYNCH](#)